

Taxation, Revenues and Cost Shifting

Issue: York County asks that the General Assembly maintain the vital state and local partnership

- ***Position:*** York County supports a thorough reassessment of Virginia's current tax structure, but opposes using tax restructuring efforts as a vehicle for shifting additional costs and/or service demands to localities.
- ***Request:*** Provide local governments with more direct tax authority and enact legislation directing that 5% of state income tax revenues be returned to localities.

Issue: VDOT—Revenue Sharing

- Increase state funding for VDOT's revenue sharing program from \$15 million to \$20 million.

Issue: Funding Partnerships for Critical Services

- Restore the reductions in funding in the Virginia Juvenile Crime Control Act made by the 2002 General Assembly.
- Remove "group homes" from the moratorium on funding for juvenile facilities in the Commonwealth's budget in order to allow the urgently needed replacement of Crossroads Community Youth Home to proceed.
- Mental Health Funding
 - ◆ Fund mental health counseling in local Juvenile Detention Centers. The Commonwealth eliminated residential care for disturbed adolescents in its mental health treatment system causing locally operated secure juvenile detention facilities to in effect become treatment centers.
 - ◆ Direct the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to work together to fund and contract with a locally operated juvenile detention center somewhere in the Commonwealth for a juvenile corrections/forensics unit.
- Restore funding for the State's Small Business Development Center Network
- Provide full funding for State Aid to Public Libraries, Constitutional Officers, Juvenile and Adult Corrections and other areas of shared responsibility.
- Amend 2004 legislation which added the \$2/night per hotel room marketing fee (SB 652) to include a representative from the time-share industry to the Williamsburg Area Destination Marketing Committee.

Issue: Consolidated Telecommunications Taxation

- ***Request:*** Oppose any legislation that will reduce the local ability to assess taxes.

Issue: Areas of concern and requests for careful study of:

- ***De-regulation of Electricity*** – Confirm that de-regulation is an appropriate course of action for Virginia and if so, assure that it occurs without adverse impact on costs and service delivery.
- ***Personal Property Tax Relief Act*** – Review the potential adverse impact on costs to citizens and administrative burdens to localities due to revision of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act.

Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)

- The General Assembly is asked to appropriate \$250,000, which will be matched by an equal amount from the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission for the 2005 BRAC process.

Traffic Safety

Issue: "Photo-red" Traffic Signal Enforcement

- Include York County in legislation authorizing localities to have "photo red" traffic signal enforcement.

Issue: New Classes of Small Motorized Vehicles

- Request authority to regulate the operation of motorized skateboards and scooters, electric motor-powered mini-bikes, and similar devices which do not currently fall within statutory definitions of various kinds of motor vehicles.

Local Authority

Issue: Taxing Authority

- Study the Homestead Exemptions and alternatives for tax relief for the elderly and disabled.

Issue: Local Cigarette Tax

- Adopt enabling legislation to authorize counties with authority to impose local taxes on cigarettes.